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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,838	11/25/2002	William R. Andersen	FIS920010397	9704

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EXAMINER

LE THIONG QUOC

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/065,838	Applicant(s) ANDERSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Thong Q. Le	Art Unit 2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-19 is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 9, 11 and 12 is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8, 10 and 13-16 is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the Applicant:
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on December 23, 2002.
3. Information disclosed and list on PTO 1449 was considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1-4,9,11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Srinivasan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,042).

Regarding claims 1, 11, Srinivasan et al. disclose an apparatus for reading out multiple match hits from a content addressable memory (CAM) (Figure 1), comprising:

a priority encoder (116) for receiving a plurality of match lines from a CAM (104) and for encoding addresses of the CAM that are associated with the matchlines that indicate a match (ABSTRACT), and

a matchline mask system (ABSTRACT) for selectively masking off a matchline that indicates a match from the priority encoder after the address associated with that matchline is encoded by the priority encoder (Column 8, lines 47-59, Column 14, lines 11-25).

Regarding claim 2, Srinivasan et al. disclose wherein the matchline mask system comprises a plurality of matchline mask units, wherein each matchline passes through a corresponding one of the matchline mask units (Column 14, lines 12-47).

Regarding claims 3, 12, Srinivasan et al. disclose a decoder (Figure 1, 112) system for selecting the matchline mask unit corresponding to the encoded address output by the priority encoder (Figure 1).

Regarding claim 4, Srinivasan et al. disclose a plurality of decoders (Figure 2, 112), wherein each decoder is associated with one of the matchline mask units (Figure 2).

Regarding claim 9, Srinivasan et al. disclose a match counter for providing a current match count and a no match flag (ABSTRACT).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 5-8, 10, 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5-8, 10, 13-16 include allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Srinivasan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,942), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having a mask unit comprising a flip-flop having an output and set input for receiving a mask off signal from the decoder system, wherein in response to the mask off signal, the output of the flip-flop sets the match line associated with the match line mask unit to a non-match condition as claims 5-8, 13-16 disclose, and the priority encoder sequence encodes the address associated with each match line that indicate a match, and the match line mask system sequentially mask off the associated match line until none of the match lines indicates a match as claim 10 discloses.

7. Claims 17-19 are allowed.

Claims 17-19 include allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Srinivasan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,418,042), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having a method for reading out multiple match hits from a CAM comprising sequentially encoding the address of the CAM that are associated with the match lines that indicate a match.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Le whose telephone number is 703-306-9123. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David C. Nelms can be reached on 703-308-4910. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3329.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thong Q. Le', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Thong Q. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2818